

# **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ANNEX**

## **Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District (District) is an independent special district created by the State of California to collect and treat wastewater, and provide storm drainage for the protection of City of Vallejo and a small portion of the unincorporated area of Solano County, California from flooding. Since 1952, the District has protected public health and the San Francisco Bay by collecting and treating the wastewater generated from more than 115,000 residents of Vallejo and the surrounding area based on the 2000 census<sup>1</sup>.

The District maintains some 685 miles of storm and sewer collection system pipes, hundreds of culverts and catch basins, as well as 36 lift stations throughout the District. In 2005-06, the District's budget is \$39,883,643. The District employs 85 people.

### **2.0 The Planning Process**

The process of preparing this plan is familiar to the District. The District's Storm Drain Master Plan was completed in 2002. The District also has a Safety Program last updated in 2005 that includes a discussion of fire, earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards. In addition, the District routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards). The District's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the District were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. The City of Vallejo participated in various ABAG workshops and meetings, including the general "kick-off" meeting. The District in turn received this information about ABAG from the City. The District has worked with the City to participate in this multi-jurisdictional process. Finally, the District provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key District staff met on several occasions to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the District. Staff involved in these meetings included the District Manager, District Engineer, Director of Safety & Risk Management, Director of Plant Operations and Maintenance, Finance Director, and the Director of Environmental Services. Meetings also took place with employees of the City of Vallejo for their input on multi-jurisdictional topics. At the meetings, the general priorities and appropriate District departments were identified. The last meeting identified preliminary budgets and potential funding sources for strategies designed as "High" priority. The District provided the opportunity for the public to comment on the mitigation strategies selected by District staff at the District Board of Trustee's meeting on June

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<sup>1</sup> For complete Census information on this District, see <http://www.bavareacensus.ca.gov/>.

27, 2006. The mitigation strategies adopted in June 2006 will become an implementation appendix to the Master Plan.

### **3.0 Hazard and Risk Assessment**

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). These hazards also impact this community, except for surface faulting. Surface faulting is not a hazard in the District because no known active faults are located in the District.

While the District has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Master Plan was prepared by the District, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

The District has had a number of landslides in the hills on the north and east side of the District, including one on Toledo Court, which endangered 2 homes in 2002. The District and private landowners have undertaken geotechnical repairs and other mitigation efforts at Toledo Court. The Hiddenbrook Valley is known to be susceptible to landslides.

Information on disasters declared in Solano County is at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The District examined the hazard exposure of its 37 critical facilities. Of these critical facilities owned by the District:

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – No active faults run within the District so rupture of a fault is not a direct concern.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – 5 facilities are in the highest two categories of shaking potential, including the Sears Point Facilities and Meadows and Catalina Pump Stations.
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – the California Geological Survey has not completed mapping of this hazard in the District. However, because few areas have been mapped as landslides, this hazard is viewed as similar to that posed by weather-related hazards.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – 19 facilities are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ Tsunamis – While tsunamis may be a hazard in the District, the mapping of the inundation area has not been completed at this time.
- ◆ Flooding – 16 facilities are in the 100-year flood plain, and there are no facilities in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides – 3 facilities are in areas of existing landslides. They are the pump stations located in the Hiddenbrook area.

- ◆ Wildfires – Because of the urban nature of the District, only 5 facilities are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat, but 20 facilities are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Drought – all 37 facilities are subject to drought.

Several areas of the District are located in flood-prone areas, there are 11 properties and 24 claims made for a total loss of over \$216,500 based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>. One of these areas exposed to repeat flooding is the residential/business area around Mississippi/Hampshire/Napa Streets. This area is a “bowl” that is prone to flooding. Another area that has repeatedly flooded is the Lemon Street area. A creek runs adjacent to the road and discharges into Lake Dalwigk. Though no claims have been filed in this area, there is history that this area repeatedly floods various properties, including a 600+ mobile estates park.

Drought, though a potential problem in the District, is not fully assessed. The District will work with ABAG and various water supply agencies on this issue.

The District plans to work with ABAG to develop specific information about the kind and level of damage to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities, which might result from any of the hazards previously noted. The ABAG Annex states that ABAG will be doing this work in 2005 through early 2006.

As these impacts are not fully developed, the District has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that earthquakes (particularly liquefaction), flooding, wildfire, and to a lesser extent landslides (including unstable earth) pose a significant risk for potential loss.

## **4.0 Mitigation Activities and Priorities**

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, District staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting of the District management on March 8, 2006. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies were reviewed. The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing District programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the District Manager for review. The draft priorities were provided to the Board of Trustees on June 27, 2006. The public was provided with an

opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become a reference document for the District's Master Plan.

In addition, the District examined the hazard exposure information to District-owned critical facilities supplied by ABAG. The District has determined that the area around Lemon Street Channel leading into Lake Dalwigk would benefit hundreds of residents and multiple properties. The Lower Miller Ditch and Solano Ave., storm drain facilities are related to the Lake Dalwigk problem and are currently under investigation. Repetitive flood claims have occurred in the area of Mississippi and Hampshire Streets. This area is the lowest lying area in the District. While we are considering alternative, we are implementing an early warning system to warn those properties owners susceptible to flooding in this area.

## **5.0 The Plan Maintenance and Update Process**

The District Manager's Office will ensure that *monitoring* of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of District department heads at least once a year in April. At that meeting, the department heads will focus on *evaluating* the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The District is committed to reviewing and *updating* this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The District Safety/Risk Management Director will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the District again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The *public* will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated, and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to adoption of updates, the District will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics.